

AMENDMENTS

In the Specification:

Please amend the first paragraph of the specification as shown below, wherein strikethrough indicates deletion and underlining indicates addition.

This application claims the benefit of co-pending United States Utility Patent Application Serial No. 09/976,391, filed October 12, 2001, which in turn claims the benefit of U.S. Provisional Application No. 60/239,969, entitled "Near Infrared Chemical Imaging Microscope," filed October 13, 2000. The contents of those Applications are hereby incorporated by reference herein.